

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

2 INTRODUCED BY M. MILBURN

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REQUIRE MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE  
6 TO TAKE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMEDIATION OF SEDIMENT IN THE MISSOURI RIVER  
7 RESULTING FROM STORM WATER.

8

9 WHEREAS, Montana conservation districts are political subdivisions of the State of Montana created by  
10 the Legislature in 1939; and

11 WHEREAS, conservation districts' main function is to conduct local activities to promote conservation  
12 of natural resources; and

13 WHEREAS, the Whitmore ravine is a natural drainage located on the east end of Great Falls between  
14 Malmstrom Air Force Base and the Missouri River; and

15 WHEREAS, two feasibility studies completed in 2003 and 2005 estimate that ~~47,000~~ 470,000 tons of  
16 sediment have entered the Missouri River through the Whitmore ravine; and

17 WHEREAS, the feasibility studies note that Malmstrom Air Force Base is the only major developed area  
18 contributing storm water discharges to the ravine; and

19 WHEREAS, Malmstrom Air Force Base has a valid storm water discharge permit from the Department  
20 of Environmental Quality; and

21 WHEREAS, the Cascade County conservation district has diligently worked to form a Whitmore ravine  
22 task force to include the participation of all stakeholders; and

23 WHEREAS, current contributions total \$48,700 from private sources and from local and state  
24 governments to fund the feasibility studies, with \$30,000 representing the state share from the coal tax trust fund;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the feasibility studies estimate a MINIMUM construction cost of \$2.3 million to remedy the  
27 erosion problem and sediment pollution to the Missouri River; and

28 WHEREAS, Malmstrom Air Force Base expresses a goal to be a good steward of the land.

29

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the State of Montana formally request the U.S. Department of Defense to acknowledge the damage  
3 that storm water from Malmstrom Air Force Base has caused and require Malmstrom Air Force Base to take  
4 financial responsibility for any remediation actions and to work in close cooperation with affected landowners and  
5 the Cascade County conservation district to effectively resolve this major natural resource problem.

6 - END -